

Turn Around Don't Drown

Flash Flooding



Las Vegas Valley



Flash Flooding

- **Flash Floods Pre-storm environment**
 - *Abundant moisture extending to several thousand feet into the atmosphere*
 - *Winds are often light...leading to slow moving storms*
 - *Run-off from storms over mountainous terrain miles away could cause flash flooding in adjacent valleys.*

Report the following immediately!

- **Flooding or rapidly rising water**
 - **Unusually high or flowing faster than normal**
 - **Water approaching bankfull or nearing roads/structures**
 - **Debris flows or rock slides**
- **Report flooding that is threatening life or property, or disrupting traffic.**
- **Describe the flooding: Water depth, extent, time it began and ended, etc.**
- **Report any injuries or damage.**

Flash Flood Facts

- Kill more people than any other weather hazard.
- Flash floods can occur anywhere in the nation.
- Nearly half of all flash flood deaths are vehicle related.
- More than 75% of Presidential Disaster Declarations are the result of flooding.
- It takes 2 feet of fast moving water to carry away most vehicles and 6 inches of fast moving water to knock a person off their feet.



Flash Floods



Callville Bay 2010

Flash Flood Safety Tips

- Flash flood season in the desert SW is typically July through September.

- Most flash flood deaths occur in automobiles. Never drive through floodwater.

TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN!!!

- Only a few inches of floodwater can wash your car off the road. Bigger vehicles have bigger tires which float.

- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize the dangers of flash floods.



Water weighs 62.4 lbs. per cubic foot and typically flows downstream at 6 to 12 miles per hour.



When a vehicle stalls in the water, the water's momentum is transferred to the car. For each foot the water rises, 500 lbs. of lateral force is applied to the automobile.



But the biggest factor is bouyancy. For each foot the water rises up the side of the car, the car displaces 1500 lbs. of water. In effect, the automobile weighs 1500 lbs. less for each foot the water rises.



Two feet of water will carry away most automobiles!!!

The Power of Flash Floods



Death Valley Flood
August 15, 2004



Another Reason Not to Drive Through Flooded Roadways

